THE PRINCIPAL

# ACTS

OF THE

# General Assembly

OF THE

# CHURCH

OF

# *SCOTLAND,*

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 21ST DAY OF MAY 1795.

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COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.

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*EDINBURGH:*

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THE PRINCIPAL

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# CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 21ſt day of MAY 1795, and concluded the 26th day of the ſaid Month and Year.

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## I.

## The KING's Commiſſion to DAVID Earl of LEVEN produced, and ordered to be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May* 21. 1795.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this national CHURCH being convened and conſtituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN, the KING's Commiſſion, ſealed with the ſeal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and uſed in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and conſtituting him his Majeſty's High Commiſſioner and

and Repreſentative in this Aſſembly; which Commiſſion was publicly read with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly; —the tenor whereof follows:

*GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defenſor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præſentes literæ noſtræ pervenerint, ſalutem. Quandoquidem Nos conſiderantes, quod Generalis Eccleſiæ Scotiæ Conventus in vigeſimum primum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Noſque abundè cupidi, et neceſſarium eſſe judicantes in commodum dictæ eccleſiæ, ut idem eccleſiæ generalis conventus die ſtatuto debitè obſervetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui perſonaliter intereſſe nequimus; Noſque abundè ſatisfacti de ſufficientiâ et fidelitate fideliſſimi et predilectiſſimi Noſtri conſanguinei* Davidis Comitis de Leven, *quod ad ſummum munus Noſtri ſupremi Commiſſionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum uſquequaque ſit inſtructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominaſſe, conſtituiſſe, et ordinaſſe, tenoreque præſentium, nominare, conſtituere, et ordinare, memoratum fideliſſimum et prædilectiſſimum Noſtrum conſanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *ſupremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium dicto generali eccleſiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam poteſtatem, commiſſionem, et warrantum ſacram Noſtram Perſonam et auctoritatem regalem repræſentandi, nec non preſentiam Noſtram ſupplendi, et locum Noſtrum in dicto ſubſequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commiſſionario Noſtro ad hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commiſſionarii pro generali eccleſiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis reſpectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem ſummo munere fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac ſi Nos ipſi perſonaliter præſentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et ſingula quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven, *in hac Noſtra Commiſſione proſequenda ligitimè fecerit, ſeu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Inſuper omnibus et ſingulis dicti conventus et eccleſiæ paſtoribus et preſbyteris cæteriſque quibuſcunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ* Scotiam *vocatam, ſubditis Noſtris, cujuſcunque gradûs ſeu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *tanquam ſupremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum et modum ſupra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoſcant et audiant, ſtrictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Noſtram Commiſſionem à dicto vigeſimo primo die Maii, proximi incipere, et deinceps durante ſubſequente ſeſſione dicti generalis*

*conventûs*

*conventûs in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel uſque dum a Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei teſtimonium, preſentibus ſigillum Noſtrum per Unionis tractatum cuſtodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejuſdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Noſtram apud St James's, vigeſimo primo menſis Aprilis, anno Domini milleſimo ſeptingenteſimo et nonageſimo quinto, Regnique Noſtri anno trigeſimo quarto.*

*Per ſignaturam manu S. D. N. Regis ſupraſcriptam.*

## II.

## The KING's moſt gracious Letter to the General Aſſembly, preſented to them by his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

*GEORGE R.*

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—It is with increaſing ſatisfaction that We again embrace the opportunity of the meeting of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, of aſſuring that Venerable Body of the high ſenſe We entertain of their conduct in the diſcharge of the important truſts that have been repoſed in them, and of declaring Our unalterable reſolution to maintain the Eſtabliſhment they repreſent in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges. We have again conſtituted Our Right Truſty and Right Well-beloved Couſin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to repreſent Our Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, being well ſatisfied with his upright and faithful conduct in the execution of that important truſt, and not doubting but he muſt continue to be acceptable to you, from the affection to the Church of Scotland, and the zeal for the intereſts of Religion, which he has manifeſted on ſo many former occa-

ſions. The indiſſoluble connection which ſubſiſts, and ever muſt ſubſiſt, between the temporal proſperity of a people and their firm adherence to the practice of Religion and Virtue, gives to the immediate objects of your deliberation an importance, which, in proportion as it dignifies your duty, calls upon you, at the ſame time, for the moſt zealous and faithful diſcharge of it; and as nothing can ever be nearer Our heart than the happineſs of Our people, ſo no ſervices will ever be more highly acceptable to Us, than ſuch as tend to promote it. Relying upon the wiſdom and diſcretion you have at all times ſo eminently diſplayed, We commend you to the protection of the Divine Providence, through the bleſſing of which upon your pious endeavours, We firmly truſt you will bring this meeting to a happy concluſion. And ſo we bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 11th day of May 1795, in the thirty-fifth year of Our Reign.

By his Majeſty's Command,

PORTLAND.

Addreſſed thus:—*To the Right Reverend The Moderator, Miniſters and Elders of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.*

## III.

## The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the KING's moſt gracious Letter.

*May it pleaſe your Majeſty,*

THE gracious letter with which your Majeſty has been pleaſed to honour this meeting of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland was received with profound reſpect and gratitude.

It

It yields us the higheſt ſatisfaction, that our conduct in diſcharging the important truſts which have been repoſed in us, has received Your Majeſty's approbation; and we rely with entire confidence on Your unalterable reſolution to maintain our National Church in the full and free enjoyment of all her rights and privileges.

The hereditary and warm attachment of the Earl of LEVEN to the intereſts of religion and good government, his affectionate regard to the Church of Scotland, his amiable character and exemplary conduct in private life, together with his approved experience and knowledge in the duties of the high office with which he is entruſted, render the re-appointment of him to repreſent Your Majeſty's Royal Perſon a moſt acceptable mark of favour to this Aſſembly.

Your Majeſty's Royal Donation for the propagation of Religion in the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, we receive as a repeated proof of Your paternal attention to the ſpiritual, as well as to the temporal intereſts of Your ſubjects; and it ſhall be our endeavour, by a wiſe and faithful application of it, to promote the pious and benevolent purpoſe for which it was beſtowed.

Firmly convinced as we are of the indiſſoluble connection which muſt ever ſubſiſt between the temporal proſperity of a people and their adherence to the practice of Religion and Virtue, we ſhall exert our moſt ſtrenuous endeavours to maintain and improve that happy union, by impreſſing a juſt ſenſe of the bleſſed effects of it upon the minds of all thoſe who are committed to our care: And we truſt, that the great objects of our deliberations will, upon all occaſions, animate us to perſevere, with increaſing zeal and diligence, in the diſcharge of our duty, upon which they reflect ſo much dignity. While we rejoice in the perſuaſion, that nothing is ever dearer to Your Majeſty, or nearer to Your heart, than the happineſs of Your people, we have, at the ſame time, the ſatisfaction of knowing, that no ſervices can ever be more acceptable to You, or can more effectually ſecure to us the continuance of Your Royal approbation.

Your Majeſty's reliance on the wiſdom and diſcretion of this Church, is a powerful incitement to us to keep conſtantly before us the important ends of our meeting, and an encouragement to carry on all our deliberations with that ſpirit of moderation and unanimity

nimity which is ſo becoming the character we bear, and ſo well calculated to bring this preſent meeting of the General Aſſembly to a happy and ſatisfactory concluſion.

That Almighty GOD, the Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, may protect Your MAJESTY's Perſon, direct Your Councils, and proſper Your Adminiſtration; that he may bleſs our gracious QUEEN, their Royal Highneſſes the PRINCE and PRINCESS of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that, after reigning long, with wiſdom and felicity, over a free, happy and grateful people, You may receive that crown of righteouſneſs which fadeth not away,—are the earneſt Prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,

Moſt obedient,

And moſt loyal Subjects,

*The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, *May* 23. 1795.

JAMES MEEK, *Moderator.*

# IV.

## ADDRESS to His Majeſty on the Nuptials of His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, with Her Moſt Serene Highneſs Caroline Princeſs of Brunſwick.

*May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,*

WE Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the Miniſters and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Aſſembly, beg leave humbly to approach the Throne, with our warmeſt congratulations on the marriage of His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, with an Amiable Princeſs of the Illuſtrious Houſe of Brunſwick,—an Houſe from which has ſprung a Race of Kings, under whoſe auſpicious Government, our National Liberty and Proſperity have been ſecured and increaſed.

This important event muſt at any time have been intereſting to us, as it flatters us with the pleaſing hope of having Your Majeſty's Royal Line extended down to the lateſt Poſterity, and as it contributes to Your domeſtic happineſs: But eſpecially, in the preſent period, have we ſeen, with the moſt unfeigned joy, Your Majeſty's paternal wiſhes ſo happily fulfilled by this auſpicious Union, which, having diffuſed ſuch univerſal ſatisfaction through the whole empire, gives Your Majeſty at once the ampleſt proof, that You poſſeſs unimpaired the warmeſt affection of Your ſubjects, and the ſtrongeſt ſecurity that Your Royal Family ſhall ever retain it.

But while we contemplate with pleaſure the increaſed ſtability of Your Majeſty's Throne, and the internal happineſs of Your People, we cannot turn our eyes on the preſent diſtracted ſtate of Europe, without the moſt anxious ſolicitude; nor behold the vigorous exertions of this Nation under Your Majeſty's direction, without praying fervently, as ſervants of the God of Peace, That He may be pleaſed to bleſs with full and ſpeedy ſucceſs, the

energy of Your Majeſty's Counſels and Arms, for the reſtoration of public tranquillity; entertaining full confidence in Your Majeſty's wiſdom, that no favourable opportunity ſhall be loſt, in procuring the bleſſing of a ſafe, honourable, and laſting peace.

That Almighty God may ever have Your Majeſty under His peculiar care; that you may reign long, and happily, over a Free and Loyal People; that He may bleſs our Gracious Queen, and all the Royal Family; that He may bleſs Their Royal Highneſſes the Prince and Princeſs of Wales, with all domeſtic felicity, and preſerve them in the paths of Religion and Virtue, and that a Race of Kings deſcended from Them, may ſway the ſceptre of theſe Lands to the lateſt ages, are the earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful,

Moſt faithful, and moſt obedient Subjects,

*The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, *May* 23. 1795. } JAMES MEEK, *Moderator.*

V.

## V.

## ADDRESS to His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, on the Event of His Marriage.

*May it pleaſe Your Royal Highneſs,*

WE, the Miniſters and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Aſſembly, beg leave, reſpectfully, to approach Your Royal Highneſs, with our warmeſt congratulations on Your marriage with an Amiable Princeſs of the Illuſtrious Houſe of Brunſwick.

Zealouſly attached to our free and happy Conſtitution in Church and State, we moſt cordially rejoice in an event, which, while it brings to Your Highneſs ſo great an acceſſion of domeſtic happineſs, affords to the Britiſh Empire an additional ſecurity for the continuance of the many and important bleſſings it has ſo long enjoyed, under the mild and auſpicious Government of the auguſt Houſe of Hanover.

That Your Royal Highneſs, and Your Amiable Conſort, may be adorned with all thoſe Virtues which give true dignity and luſtre to Your exalted Station; that Divine Providence may beſtow upon You a large portion of proſperity and glory, and bleſs You with a Race of Princes to ſway the Sceptre of theſe Realms, over a free, loyal, and happy people to lateſt poſterity; and that, after a long enjoyment of earthly bleſſings, You may be received into the Manſions of Eternal Felicity,—are the fervent prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Royal Highneſs,

Your Royal Highneſs's moſt devoted Servants,

*The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

JAMES MEEK, *Moderator.*

EDINBURGH, *May* 23. 1795.

VI.

## VI.

## ACT enjoining Prayer for Her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs of Wales.

*Edinburgh, May* 23. 1795. *Seſſ.* 3.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY conſidering, that it hath pleaſed God to bleſs this Nation with an addition to the Royal Family, by the happy marriage of His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, do therefore enjoin all the Miniſters of this Church, That they pray for Her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs of Wales, as well as for His Majeſty King George; His Royal Conſort the Queen; His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales; and all the Royal Family; and, that Her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs of Wales be named immediately after the Prince.

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## VII.

## COMMISSION of the General Aſſembly, to certain Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing affairs referred to them.

*Edinburgh, May* 30. 1795. *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commiſſion and appoint the Reverend Dr JAMES MEEK, Miniſter at Cambuſlang, their Moderator:

And,—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr William Anderſon at Evie and Rendal, Mr James Watſon at South-Ronaldſay, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Youngſon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:— From the *Preſbytery* of *Cairſtone*, Mr Robert Sands at Hoy and Græmſay, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flota, *Miniſters*; Mr Richard Richardſon, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *North Iſles*, Mr John Anderſon at Stronſay and Eday, Mr James Izat at Weſtray, *Miniſters*; John Grieve, Eſq; Commiſſioner of Exciſe, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr William Jack at North Maven, Mr John Inches at Neſting, *Miniſters*; Profeſſor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr William Gloag, Dr John Walker at Collington, Dr Thomas Davidſon, Mr William Cameron at Kirk-Newton, Mr James Finlayſon, Mr Thomas Macknight, South Leith, *Miniſters*; Thomas Elder, Eſq; of Forneth, Donald Smith, Eſq; banker, Edinburgh, Charles Kerr, Eſq; His Majeſty's printer, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, the Right Honourable Sir James Stirling, Baronet, Lord Provoſt of the City, Convener Thomas Hay:—From the *Univerſity* of *Edinburgh*, Principal George Baird:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr Walter Jardine at Bathgate, Mr John Henderſon at Queensferry, Mr James Rhind at Whitburn, Mr John Muckerſy at Weſt Calder, *Miniſters*; Captain James Taylor, Queensferry, John Meek, Eſq; of Campfield, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Alexander Macnab, Eſq; one of the preſent Magiſtrates:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr John Gordon at Dolphington, Mr William Porteous at Kilbucho, Mr William Strachan at Culter, *Miniſters*; John Dickſon of Culter, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr Alexander Kerr at Stobo, Mr James Gardner at Tweedſmuir, *Miniſters*; James Montgomery, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Andrew Hamilton, of Spittlehaugh, Eſq; From the *Preſbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Mr James Brown at Newbattle, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Invereſk, Mr William Scott at Dalkeith, *Miniſters*; the Right Honourable Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr James Innes at Yeſter, Mr Andrew Niſbet at Garvald, Mr George Goldie at Athelſtoneford, *Miniſters*; John Hamilton, Eſq; of Pencaitland, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, Charles Brown of Coalſton, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, Sir Hugh Hamilton

Dalrymple of North Berwick:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr Alexander Davidſon at Stenton, Mr John Cochran at Oldhamſtocks, *Miniſters*; John Anderſon of Windygoul, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunſe*, Mr William Simpſon at Greenlaw, Mr Adam Murray at Eccles, *Miniſters*; Matthew Sandilands of Couſton, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Churnſide*, Mr George Tod at Eyemouth, Mr George Drummond at Mordington, *Miniſters*; George Buchan, Eſq; of Kello, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kelſo*, Mr James Richardſon at Morebattle, Mr Andrew Scott at Stitchell, *Miniſters*; Sir James Pringle of Stitchell, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Mr Benjamin Dickiſon at Kirkton, Mr Thomas Campbell at Ancrum, *Miniſters*; Mr James Dickſon, merchant, Hawick, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Jedburgh*, John Macfarlane, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lauder*, Mr James Duncan at Mertown, Mr Robert Scott at Legerwood, *Miniſters*; Colonel John Pringle of Georgefield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, the Right Honourable James Earl of Lauderdale:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr Thomas Robertſon at Selkirk, Mr Frederick Maclaggan at Melroſe, *Miniſters*; William Elliot, Eſq; of Borthwick-brae, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Annan*, Mr Thomas Smith at Cumbertrees, Mr John Morgan at Gretnay, *Miniſters*; Joſeph Norris, Eſq; of Newfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Annan*, Charles Hope, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr William Little at Weſterkirk, Mr Thomas Martin at Langholm, *Miniſters*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Robert Little at Applegirth, Dr John Burgeſs at Kirkmichael, Mr Gabriel Scott at Kirkpatrick-Juxta, *Miniſters*; Mr William Tait, Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnſton, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr John Williamſon at Durriſdeer, Mr John Yorſton at Morton, *Miniſters*; Thomas Crichton, Eſq; younger of Auchinſkeoch, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumfries*, Mr George Duncan at Lochrutton, Dr Bryce Johnſton at Holywood, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick-Durham, *Miniſters*; Bailie Robert Jackſon, Dumfries, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Alexander Fergusſon of Craigdarroch, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr Alexander Macgowan at Dalry, Mr John Johnſton at Croſsmichael, Mr Robert Gordon at Carsfairn, *Miniſters*; James Gordon, Eſq;

Eſq; younger of Greenlaw, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcudbright*, Horatius Cannan, Eſq; of Barley:—From the *Burgh* of *New Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Goſpel:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Wigton*, Dr James Laing at Glaſſerton, Mr John Steven at Mochrum, *Miniſters*; Robert Hathorn Stewart, Eſq; of Phiſgil, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, Mr John Jaffrey, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Thomas Smith, Eſq; one of the principal clerks to the bills:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Ayr*, Dr William Macquhae at St Quivox, Dr Thomas Miller at Old Cumnock, Mr William Peebles at Newtown upon Ayr, Mr George Gordon at Sorn, Mr John Lindſay at Auchinleck, *Miniſters*; Sir William Miller of Glenlee, Bart. Thomas Kennedy of Denure, Eſq; *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Ferguſſon, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr Michael Tod at Dreghorn, Mr Thomas Briſbane at Dunlop, Mr William Boyd at Fenwick, *Miniſters*; the Honourable Mr Patrick Boyle, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Irvine*, David Boyle, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Paiſley*, Dr John Snodgraſs, Paiſley, Mr Robert Boog, Paiſley, Mr Colin Gillies, Paiſley, Mr James Steven at Lochwinnoch, *Miniſters*; Hugh Jameſon, Eſq; eldeſt Magiſtrate of Paiſley, Robert Davidſon, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Renfrew*, Thomas King, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr Archibald Bruce at Shotts, Mr Thomas Freebairn at Eaſt Monkland, *Miniſters*; John Hamilton, Eſq; of Weſtburn, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lanark*, Mr James Finlayſon at Carſtairs, Mr Robert Inglis at Carmichael, *Miniſters*; Mr George Scott, ſchoolmaſter at Carnwath, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lanark*, John Bannatyne, Eſq; of Caſtlebank:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Glaſgow*, Mr Alexander Dobie at Egleſham, Dr William Lockhart at Glaſgow, Mr William Taylor *junior* at Glaſgow, Mr Robert Rennie at Kilſyth, *Miniſters*; Archibald Campbell, Eſq; Advocate, James Glaſford, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Glaſgow*, John Dunlop, Eſq; of Roſebank, preſent Lord Provoſt of the City:—From the *Univerſity* of *Glaſgow*, Profeſſor George Jardine, Glaſgow:—From the *Burgh* of *Rutherglen*, Mr James Davidſon, writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumbarton*, Mr John Allan at Row, Mr Gordon Stewart at Bonhill, Mr George Drummond at Roſeneath, *Miniſters*; the Lord Preſident, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumbarton*, Archibald Campbell younger

of

of Succoth, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Archibald Maclea at Rothſay, Mr Alexander Macfarlane at Kilfinan, *Miniſters;* John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Rothſay*, William Macleod Bannatyne, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kintyre*, Mr George Robertſon at Campbeltown, Mr William Fraſer at Gigha, *Miniſters;* Mr Donald Campbell at Southend, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Inverary*, Humpry Trawford Campbell, Eſq; younger of Aſhniſh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lorn*, Dr Joſeph Macintyre at Glenorchie, Mr Francis Stewart at Kilchrenan, *Miniſters;* John Campbell, Eſq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Dugal Campbell at Kilfinichan, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, *Miniſters;* Allan Macdougall of Hayfield, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr William Chalmers at Auchtergaven, Mr Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, Mr Archibald Menzies at Dull, Mr John Brodie at Kinloch, *Miniſters;* John Hagart, Eſq; Advocate, David Steuart, Eſq; merchant in Leith, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Perth*, Mr David Dow at Dron, Mr John Williſon at Forgandenny, Mr Anthony Dow at Kilſpindy, Mr Thomas Kennedy at St Madoes, *Miniſters;* Mr James Dickſon, bookſeller, Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Beatſon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Burgh* of *Perth*, John Caw, Eſq; late Provoſt of Perth:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr William Innes at Stirling, Mr Robert Ure *junior* at Airth, *Miniſters;* William Murray, Eſq; of Touchadam, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr Colin Baxter at Monivaird, Mr Ralph Taylor at Monzie, *Miniſters;* Peter Murray, Eſq; younger of Auchtertyre, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunblane*, Mr Patrick Graham at Aberfoyle, Mr David Simſon at Tulliallan, *Miniſters;* Profeſſor William Richardſon, Glaſgow, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr James Reid at Beith, Mr David Balfour at Torryburn, Mr Walter Macalpin at Culroſs, *Miniſters;* Sir Charles Preſton of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkaldy*, Mr David Swan at Scoonie, Mr Andrew Grant at Portmoak, Mr Thomas Scott at Balingrie, *Miniſters;* Alexander Park, Eſq; of Lochore, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkaldy*, Mr Andrew Inglis, merchant in Kirkaldy:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Cupar*, Dr Michael Greenlaw at Creich, Dr Andrew Brown at Falkland, Mr John Martin at Strathmiglo, Mr James Keyden at Dunbog, *Miniſters;* Mr David

vid Pitcairn in the Mount, Mr John Niviſon in Falkland, *Ruling Elders:* — From the *Preſbytery* of *St Andrew's*, Dr Robert Arnot, Profeſſor of Divinity, Mr John Mair at Cameron, Mr Archibald Gillies at St Monans, Mr Alexander Brodie at Carnbie, *Miniſters;* Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Monypenny, Profeſſor John Cook, *Ruling Elders:* — From the *Burgh* of *St Andrew's*, The Honourable Henry Erſkine, Dean of Faculty: — From the *Univerſity* of *St Andrew's*, Principal George Hill:—From the *Burgh* of *Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh: From the *Preſbytery* of *Meigle*, Mr James Stormonth at Airly, Mr James Badenoch at Kingoldrum, Mr Alexander Thomſon at Lintrathen, *Miniſters;* Sir William Ramſay of Banff, Bart. *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr James Mitchell at Aberlemno, Mr Thomas Wright at Roſcobie, *Miniſters;* Mr John Moncreiff, apothecary, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forfar*, Robert Graham of Fintry, Eſq;—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr Alexander Imlach at Murroes, Mr John Anderſon at Dundee, Mr William Johnſton at Monyfeith, *Miniſters;* Mr Alexander Pitcairn, inſurance-broker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr John Aitken at St Vigean's, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, *Miniſters*; Mr Thomas Miln, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr Andrew Gray at Caraldſtone, Mr Alexander Peter at Logie and Pert, Mr Andrew Ferguſon at Marytoun, *Miniſters*; James Wauchope, Eſq; younger of Edmonſtone, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Fordoun*, Mr John Brymer at Marykirk, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, Mr James Leſlie at Fordoun, *Miniſters;* John Burnet, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberdeen*, Mr James Shirrefs at Aberdeen, Mr William Wilſon at Dyce, Mr George Gordon at Aberdeen, Mr James Fraſer at Drumoak, *Miniſters;* William Robertſon, Eſq; Advocate, Procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Eſq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kincardine O' Neal*, Mr Robert Farquharſon at Logie Coldſtone, Mr Joſeph Smith at Birſe, Mr Alexander Henderſon at Echt, *Miniſters*; William Macdonald, Eſq; of Reneaton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Alford*, Mr Alexander Smith at Keig, Mr Alexander Urquhart at Tough, Mr William Spence at Glenbucket, *Miniſters;* James Gordon, Eſq; younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Garioch*, Mr Thomas Tait at Meldrum, Mr Alexander

Duff at Monymuſk, Mr George Skene Keith at Keith-hall, *Miniſters*; William Gordon, Eſq; younger of Rothney, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Deer*, Mr John Lundie at Loanmay, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr John Craigie at St Fergus, *Miniſters*; Mr John Taylor, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Turriff*, Mr John Miln at Inverkeithing, Mr John Falconer at Fyvie, *Miniſters*; Mr Archibald Miln, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Fordyce*, Mr Alexander Milne at Boindie, Mr Alexander Humphry at Fordyce, *Miniſters*; Mr George Andrew, writer, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr John Cooper at Glaſs, Mr Alexander Angus at Botriphnie, *Miniſters*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr Francis Leſlie at Boharm, Mr George Cruikſhank at Rothes, *Miniſters*; the Honourable Arthur Duff of Orton, Ruling Elder:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Mr John Anderſon at Kinguiſſie, *Miniſters*; Dr Gregory Grant, phyſician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr Lewis Gordon at Drainie, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, *Miniſters*; Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Elgin*, Mr Francis Nicol, preacher of the Goſpel:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Forres*, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, Mr John Macdonnell at Forres, *Miniſters*; George Cumming of Relugas, Eſq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*: From the *Preſbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr Alexander Grant at Calder, Mr John Morriſon at Nairn, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverneſs*, Alexander Baillie, Eſq; of Dochfour:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Chanonry*, Mr Robert Arthur at Kirkmichael, Mr James Smith at Avoch, *Miniſters*; Convener John Lindſay of Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Tain*, Mr John Urquhart at Fearn, Mr Alexander Macadam at Nigg, *Miniſters*; Charles Roſs, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr Colin Mackenzie at Fodderty, Mr John Downie at Urray, *Miniſters*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleſkine, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, *Miniſters*; Mr James Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Uiſt*, Mr John Macleod at Harris, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, *Miniſters*; Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Eſq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr

Mr Roderick Morriſon at Kintail, Mr Alexander Downie at Lochalſh, *Miniſters*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dornoch*, Mr George Macculloch at Loth, Mr George Rannie at Creich, *Miniſters*; Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod, Eſq; of Cadboll, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Tongue*, Mr John Thomſon at Duirneſs, Mr William Mackenzie at Tongue, *Miniſters*; Mr William Maclean, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Caithneſs*, Dr John Morriſon at Caniſbay, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Miniſters*; Sir Benjamin Dunbar, Baronet, of Hemprigs, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wick*, the Right Honourable James Earl of Caithneſs:—And the General Aſſembly added thereto Dr Henry Grieve, one of the Miniſters of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and alſo added Mr George Rae, of *Canongate*, whoſe commiſſion had been rejected on account of informality, TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be miniſters, to meet and convene within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the firſt day after the diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the ſecond Wedneſday of Auguſt, third Wedneſday of November, and the firſt Wedneſday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient, with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chuſe their own Moderator: And likewiſe, the General Aſſembly fully empowers their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in every matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Aſſembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the intereſt of the Church on every occaſion, that the Church, and preſent eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable: Provided always, that this general clauſe be not extended to particular affairs or proceſſes before Synods or Preſbyteries, that are not of univerſal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private proceſſes be determined, except at the four ſtated diets; and what ſhall be determined at one diet of the Commiſſion, with relation to private cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and

ſhall

ſhall ſtand and continue in force till diſapproved of by the General Aſſembly. And the Aſſembly renews the inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly in the year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen to their Commiſſion, and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full force as inſtructions to the Commiſſioners before named, and to be obſerved by them in all points, as if the ſame were ſpecially here inſerted; and that they enquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconſiſtent with our *Confeſſion of Faith*; and that the recommenders of ſuch books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion, to anſwer for the ſame. And further, the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that ſhall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen ſuch affairs for the next General Aſſembly; and to contribute what they can to the ſuppreſſing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and aſſiſtance to Synods and Preſbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewiſe, to take care that the impreſſions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confeſſion of Faith*, and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch books as are authoriſed by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the ſame. And the Commiſſioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correſpondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies One thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and One thouſand

ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Aſſembly held in the year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe Preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them attend each diet of the ſame: And the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the cauſes and queſtions relative to the ſettlement of vacant churches, which are or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Preſbytery or Synod of this Church ſhall decline to comply with the ſentence of the Commiſſion, or to give the ſame a full execution, in that caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſpondent meeting, as has been ſome time the practice, but ſhall allow the ſame to lie over to the enſuing Aſſembly, to which ſuch Preſbyteries or Synods ſhall be anſwerable for ſuch their conduct, and are hereby appointed to ſend up with their Commiſſioners their reaſons for the ſame. And that in paſſing their ſentences, and in ordering the execution of the ſame, they ſtrictly obſerve the 12th act of the Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-ſix.

# VIII.

## COMMISSION to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that end.

*Edinburgh, May* 30. *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr JAMES MEEK, Miniſter at Cambuſlang, their Moderator, all the miniſters who are members of the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, Mr William Anderſon, Mr Robert Sands, Mr John Anderſon, Mr John Inches, Principal Baird, Mr John Henderſon, Mr John Gordon, Mr James Gardner, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr James Innes, Mr Alexander Davidſon, Mr Adam Murray, Mr George Tod, Mr Andrew Scott, Mr William Paton, Mr James Duncan, Mr Thomas Robertſon, Mr John Morgan, Mr William Little, Mr Gabriel Scott, Mr John Yorſtoun, Dr Bryce Johnſton, Mr Robert Gordon, Mr John Steven, Dr Thomas Miller, Mr Michael Tod, Dr John Snodgraſs, Mr Thomas Freebairn, Mr James Finlayſon, Dr William Lockhart, Mr John Allan, Mr Archibald Maclea, Mr George Robertſon, Dr Joſeph Macintyre, Mr Dugal Campbell, Mr William Chalmers, Mr David Dow, Mr William Innes, Mr John Scott, Mr Patrick Graham, Mr James Reid, Mr David Swan, Dr Andrew Brown, Dr Robert Arnot, Principal Hill, Mr James Stormonth, Mr James Mitchell, Mr John Anderſon, Mr John Aitken, Mr Alexander Peter, Mr John Brymer, Mr Joſeph Smith, Mr Alexander Urquhart, Mr George Skene Keith, Mr John Lundie, Mr John Miln, Mr Alexander Miln, Mr John Cooper, Mr Francis Leſlie, Mr Patrick Grant, Mr Lewis Gordon, Mr William Stephen, Mr Alexander Grant, Mr Robert Arthur, Mr John Urquhart, Mr Colin Mackenzie, Mr James Grant, Mr John Macleod, Mr Roderick Moriſon,

ſon, Mr George Macculloch, Mr John Thomſon, Dr John Morriſon, *Miniſters ;* Mr Alexander Youngſon, writer, Mr Richard Richardſon, Commiſſioner Greive, Profeſſor Dalzel, Thomas Elder, Eſq; Donald Smith, Eſq; Charles Ker, Eſq; the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Convener Thomas Hay, John Dickſon, Eſq; James Montgomery, Eſq; Andrew Hamilton, Eſq; the Lord Advocate, Sir Hugh Hamilton Dalrymple, Matthew Sandilands, Eſq; Sir James Pringle, John Macfarlane, Eſq; the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr Joſeph Norris, Charles Hope, Eſq; William Tait, Eſq; Mr William Johnſton, Alexander Fergusſon, Eſq; Mr Horatius Cannan, Mr Robert Heron, Mr John Jaffrey, Mr Thomas Smith, Lord Glenlee, George Fergusſon, Eſq; David Boyle, Eſq; John Bannatyne, Eſq; James Glaſsford, Eſq; Mr James Davidſon, the Lord Preſident, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; William Macleod Bannatyne, Eſq; Allan Macdougall, Eſq; John Hagart, Eſq; David Steuart, Eſq; Bailie James Dickſon, Mr Alexander Beatſon, Peter Murray, Eſq; Lieutenant-Colonel Monypenny, the Dean of Faculty, Mr Thomas Weir, Sir William Ramſay, Mr John Moncrieff, Robert Graham, Eſq; Mr Alexander Pitcairn, Mr Thomas Miln, merchant, James Wauchope, Eſq; John Burnet, Eſq; the Procurator, Mr William Macdonald, Mr William Gordon, Mr John Taylor, Mr Archibald Milne, Mr George Andrew, Mr Baron Gordon, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Thomas Gordon, Mr George Cumming, Mr Alexander Grant, Convener John Lindſay, Charles Roſs, Eſq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, Mr James Grant, Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod, Eſq; Mr William Maclean, Sir Benjamin Dunbar, the Earl of Caithneſs, *Ruling Elders ;* TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Aſſembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, ſuppreſſing Popery and profaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty for theſe ends, according to, and in terms of His Majeſty's grant to this Aſſembly. In proſecution of which purpoſes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechiſts, to go to ſuch places as they ſhall find, upon due information, to be the moſt proper, according to His Majeſty's deſign, expreſſed in His warrant; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular regard to ſuch pariſhes in South Uiſt, Small Iſles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other pariſhes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee ſhall find, by reaſon of the vaſt extent, by the prevalency

prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumſtances, to be in the greateſt diſtreſs: And they ſhall take care, that the perſons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for theſe reſpective offices, of good abilities for the ſame, of a pious life and converſation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majeſty, and of competent ſkill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popiſh controverſies: Such Preachers and Catechiſts being hereby appointed to be ſubject to, and under the inſpection of the Preſbyteries of the bounds to which they are ſent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly obſerved by them. And the Preachers are alſo appointed to catechiſe, and both they and the Catechiſts to inſtruct the people from houſe to houſe, and to viſit the ſick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chriſtian Proteſtant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them ſuch inſtructions as to their work and behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet; which inſtructions the Preachers and Catechiſts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Aſſemblies: And to take care that Preſbyteries, and others concerned, obſerve the ſame, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Aſſembly ordains the ſeveral Preſbyteries to inſert in their regiſters the Committee's appointments of the deſignations, ſalaries, and ſtations of the ſeveral miſſionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they ſhall write about the ſaid miſſionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning miſſionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters ſhall be ſigned, at the appointment of the Preſbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Aſſembly does diſcharge any payment to be made of the ſalaries of the miſſionaries, except upon receipts from the miſſionaries themſelves, and upon certificates from the Preſbyteries, bearing, That they have ſerved for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechiſt who receives a ſalary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that

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the pariſhioners or gentlemen of the diſtrict ſhall pay a certain ſum in aid of ſuch ſalary, ſhall inſert, in the body of his receipt to the Caſhier, a declaration that he has received the particular ſum ſpecified; and that the atteſtation of the Preſbytery ſhall in like manner bear, that the Catechiſt has received the ſtipulated ſum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being underſtood by this reſolution, that the ſeveral ſtations, with regard to which ſuch conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no ſuch declaration of the Catechiſt, or atteſtation of the Preſbytery, as is now propoſed, is received by the Caſhier, ſhall be afterwards ſuppreſſed by the Committee, though the Catechiſt ſhall, notwithſtanding, receive the ſalary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the miniſtry, of the miſſion committed to him, be written on the back of the Preſbytery's certificate, and ſigned by him, as the ground on which the Preſbytery have granted him ſaid certificate. The General Aſſembly do alſo empower the ſaid Committee to apply, for the purpoſes above mentioned, what may remain of the laſt year's Royal Bounty not diſpoſed of, by reaſon of any of the miſſionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a regiſter of their proceedings, and likewiſe diſtinct books of accounts, how the foreſaid money is beſtowed, which ſhall be patent to any concerned, who pleaſe to inſpect the ſame. Of the perſons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be miniſters. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the ſcheme or eſtabliſhment of miſſionaries for the enſuing year is to be approved and determined, not leſs than fourteen ſhall be the quorum, whereof nine ſhall be miniſters; and the ſaid Committee are appointed to have their firſt general meeting at Edinburgh, the firſt lawful day after the adjournment of the firſt of the ſtated diets of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly; their ſecond meeting (which is for fixing the annual ſcheme), upon the ſecond Thurſday of July, with power to thoſe members who ſhall then be preſent, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the firſt lawful days after the ſtated meetings of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, in November and March, within the Aſſembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day ſhall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting ſhall be upon Monday next

thereafter, at the ſaid hour; with power to the ſaid Committee to adjourn themſelves to ſuch times and places as they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſemby, and the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the Synods and Preſbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and empowered, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for aſſiſtance and ſupport in carrying on the deſign of the Commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do appoint Mr William Robertſon, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the ſame, as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the foreſaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of His Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme, ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the perſon complained of, and the Preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and thoſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid Committee a juſt account of the matter, againſt the next meeting. And it is farther appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Preſbyteries concerned, ſuch Preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid Committee their anſwer to theſe letters, at fartheſt, with their Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the Committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to complete the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot complete it, they ſhall name a ſub-committee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting, which is appointed

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to meet as ſoon after the riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible. And empowered the Committee, at their firſt meeting, to reject any petition for a new ſtation, in caſe they ſhall find ſufficient objections againſt it; and that the ſaid Committee, in making up the ſcheme of miſſionaries, &c. do not exceed the ſum in the grant.

# IX.

Edinburgh, May 30. 1795. *Seſſ.* 9.

*THE Report of the Committee appointed to claſs returns to Overtures was called for, given in, and read.—The Aſſembly ordered the Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers to be retranſmitted; with a renewal of the Recommendation to ſuch Preſbyteries as have ſent no Returns, to ſend them without further delay.*

## New Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers.

*Edinburgh, May* 25. 1792. *Seſſ.* 8.

THE General Aſſembly having taken under their ſerious conſideration, the great danger to which the intereſts of Religion and of this Church may be expoſed, by licenſing any to preach the Goſpel, who are not duly qualified for that important truſt, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations ſhall be ſtrictly obſerved:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student ſhall be entered upon the Roll of any Profeſſor of Divinity, unleſs he ſhall produce to the ſaid Profeſſor a certificate from the Miniſter of the pariſh in which he has his uſual reſidence; or in his abſence, or during a vacancy in ſaid pariſh,

pariſh, from ſome neighbouring Miniſter, bearing, that his character is ſuitable to his views; together with a diploma of Maſter of Arts, or certificates from the ſeveral Profeſſors of Philoſophy, under whom he hath ſtudied, from which it may be clearly aſcertained that, in ſome Univerſity or Univerſities, he hath gone through a full courſe of Philoſophy in ſome winter-ſeſſions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Profeſſors of Divinity, in the manner preſcribed by this act, ſhall continue to proſecute the ſtudy of Divinity for the term of ſix Seſſions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Seſſions, his Courſe ſhall be conſidered as completed in four Seſſions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Seſſions, his Courſe ſhall be conſidered as completed in five Seſſions. And the Aſſembly do further ordain, That in each of theſe caſes, Students ſhall be inrolled by the Profeſſors during the ſeveral Seſſions of their reſpective Courſes, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegeſis in Latin, on ſome controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in Engliſh, an Exerciſe and Addition, a Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with ſuch other Exerciſes as the Profeſſors ſhall think proper to preſcribe. And the Aſſembly farther enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Profeſſor for his certificates, that he may be propoſed for trials, and that the Preliminary ſteps may be taken by the Preſbytery during the currency of the laſt Seſſion of his Courſe, as above deſcribed; with this limitation, that if the ſaid laſt Seſſion is to be claimed as a Seſſion of regular attendance, he ſhall, toward the concluſion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the ſame to the Preſbytery or Synod.

III. Profeſſors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumſtances may permit, to the conduct of ſuch Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to inſiſt that every Student ſhall deliver his firſt diſcourſe ſome time during his ſecond Seſſion, at the lateſt, and the remainder of his Diſcourſes at ſuch periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them

them before the end of January, of the laſt Seſſion of his Courſe.

IV. When a Student is propoſed to any Preſbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Preſbytery ſhall be alone, and the motion for that purpoſe ſhall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Preſbytery ſhall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been propoſed, to lay before the ſaid meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are ſpecified in the third paragraph of the fifth ſection of this act; to deſire him to attend the ſame; and to inform him, that, previouſly to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumſtances may permit, to wait on ſuch Miniſters of the Preſbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of converſing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for conſidering the motion is arrived, the Preſbytery ſhall ſtrictly obſerve the following regulations.

1*ſt*, The Preſbytery ſhall be alone, while they are employed in diſcuſſing the ſeveral preliminaries reſpecting Students who are propoſed for trials.

2*d*, They ſhall require ſatisfying evidence, that every Student who is propoſed for that purpoſe, has completed the twenty-firſt year of his age.

3*d*, No Student ſhall be admitted to trials, unleſs he produces to the Preſbytery, a certificate or certificates from the Profeſſor or Profeſſors of Divinity, under whoſe tuition he hath ſtudied, bearing, that he hath proſecuted his ſtudies, and delivered his Diſcourſes, in the manner preſcribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as conſiſts with the knowledge of the ſaid Profeſſor, or Profeſſors, has been in every reſpect ſuitable to his views in life. And the General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby enact, That the Preſbytery ſhall record at full length the ſaid certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged ſuch certificate, or certificates, ſhall be entitled to obtain extracts of the ſame, if demanded.

4*th*, No Preſbytery ſhall receive any Student upon trials, unleſs they are ſatisfied that he is of good report; ſound in his principles; pious, ſober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable diſpoſition; and well affected to the happy eſtabliſhment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Preſbytery may pro-

ceed with all due caution, in a matter of ſuch peculiar importance, they ſhall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unleſs his reſidence, during the year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he ſhall produce ſufficient teſtimonials from the Preſbytery, in whoſe bounds his reſidence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is ſuch as is deſcribed in the immediately preceding ſentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in theſe reſpects, to the Preſbytery before whom the propoſal is made, as a proper perſon to be entered upon trials.

*5th*, The Preſbytery ſhall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unleſs they are ſatisfied, that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in thoſe ſeveral branches of knowledge, which are neceſſary to enable him to be an uſeful Preacher of the Goſpel. And the General Aſſembly ordain, that the Preſbytery, in order to procure full information in this reſpect, ſhall examine the Student, ſtrictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philoſophy and Theology.

*6th*, If after theſe preliminary ſteps have been taken, the Preſbytery ſhall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in theſe ſeveral particulars, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the ſeveral Preſbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at leaſt before the meeting of the ſame, informing them of the Preſbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of ſuch Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have theſe circular letters written half a-year ſooner than would be otherwiſe competent.

VI. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby enact and declare, That, at the requeſt of the Student, it ſhall be competent to any Preſbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Preſbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary ſteps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that ſuch parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII.

VII. If a Student hath ſtudied, either in whole or in part, in Proteſtant Univerſities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he ſhall, when he is propoſed to any Preſbytery for trials, be required to produce ſatisfying teſtimonials from the Profeſſors of Divinity in ſaid Univerſities; and the time which theſe Profeſſors ſhall certify to have been employed by him in ſtudying Divinity under their tuition, ſhall be computed in the ſame manner as if he had proſecuted his ſtudies in any of the Univerſities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in ſuch circumſtances, ſhall be admitted even to thoſe private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, ſooner than ſix kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Aſſembly ordain, That if a Preſbytery propoſe to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof ſhall be made at ſome diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which ſhall not be the laſt diet thereof: And the Preſbytery clerk is hereby required to tranſmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate, or certificates, laid before the Preſbytery, in favour of the Student, in order that the ſame may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewiſe hereby ordained, That at ſome ſubſequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry ſhall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer againſt the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then taking into conſideration the extract produced, and the whole of the caſe, ſhall judge of the expediency of allowing the Preſbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or if in any caſe the Preſbytery clerk ſhall fail to tranſmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himſelf or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the ſame, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod ſhall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Preſbytery ſhall proceed therein with all convenient ſpeed; and the Aſſembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1*ſt*, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church Hiſtory; 2*d*, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3*d*, An Exegeſis in Latin

Latin on ſome controverted Head in Divinity; 4*th*, A Homily in Engliſh; 5*th*, An Exerciſe and Addition; 6*th*, A Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture; 7*th*, A popular Sermon; it being underſtood, that if the Preſbytery ſee cauſe, they may examine the Student upon the ſubject of theſe ſeveral Diſcourſes.

X. The Student having gone through the ſeveral trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding ſection of this act, the Preſbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order:

1*ſt*, They ſhall, deliberately and ſeriouſly, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they ſhall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Goſpel, they ſhall by no means grant him a Licence in his preſent circumſtances.

2*d*, If, upon this review of the trials, the Preſbytery are fully ſatisfied therewith, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes.

3*d*, The Preſbytery ſhall then propoſe to the Student the queſtions that are appointed to be put to all who paſs Trials by act 10th Aſſembly 1711, and require him to ſubſcribe the *Formula* which is preſcribed by the ſaid act. And the General Aſſembly ſtrictly prohibit all Preſbyteries from licenſing any Student to preach the Goſpel, who ſhall not give explicit and ſatisfying anſwers to theſe queſtions, and ſubſcribe the ſaid *Formula*.

4*th*, The Preſbytery ſhall order the act of Aſſembly 1759, againſt Simoniacal practices, to be read to the Student in their preſence.

*Laſtly*, The Preſbytery ſhall appoint their Moderator to licence the Student to preach the Goſpel, and order their clerk to furniſh him with an extract of his licence.

XI. For the better obſervance of this act, the General Aſſembly ordain, 1*ſt*, That it ſhall be printed among their other printed acts; 2*d*, That it ſhall be printed by itſelf, in ſome convenient form; 3*d*, That a copy of this ſeparate edition ſhall be tranſmitted to each Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſities of Scotland; and that the ſaid Profeſſors ſhall read the ſame in their reſpective Halls, once at leaſt during every Seſſion, and at ſuch times as they have reaſon to expect the attendance of the greateſt number of Students for that Seſſion; and, *laſtly*, That a copy of the ſame edition ſhall likewiſe be tranſmitted to

the clerks of each Synod, and Preſbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the ſaid clerks ſhall keep the ſame along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their reſpective Courts, for the uſe of the Members.

## X.

## Act appointing the Diet of the next General Aſſembly.

*Edinburgh, June* 1. 1795. *Seſſ. ult.*

THE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thurſday the 19th day of May 1796.

*Extracted from the Records of the General Aſſembly, by*

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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ABRIDG-

# ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the year 1795, which are not printed at full length.

*Thurſday, May* 21. 1795. *Seſſ.* 1.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr ROBERT ARNOT, Profeſſor of Divinity in St Mary's College, St Andrew's, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the Miniſters and Ruling Elders convened in the Aſſembly-houſe in the uſual manner: And, after prayer by the ſaid Dr Robert Arnot, the Reverend Dr JAMES MEEK, Miniſter at Cambuſlang, being unanimouſly choſen Moderator, he, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the chair.

The KING's Commiſſion to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to repreſent his Majeſty's Royal Perſon, read, and ordered to be recorded. See Printed Acts, No. I.

The KING's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly, read, and ordered to be recorded. and No. II.

The Commiſſioner's Speech at the opening of the Aſſembly, and the Moderator's ſpeech in return thereto.

A Committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious Letter.

A Dutiful and Loyal Addreſs to his Majeſty, on the nuptials of His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, with Her Moſt Serene Highneſs Caroline Princeſs of Brunſwick:

Alſo an Humble and Congratulatory Addreſs to His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales on the event of his Marriage; agreed to, and a Committee appointed to prepare both Addreſſes.

The Committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly on Chapels of Eaſe, renewed.

A Committee named for reviſing the Commiſſions to the members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from the diets thereof, naming Miniſters to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner, and receiving Liſts of Probationers in the ſeveral Preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May* 22. 1795. *Seſſ.* 2.

*Sederunt.*

New Commiſſions produced.

A diet ſpent in Prayer.

Act

Act VII. of the Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of the Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Committee for reviſing Commiſſions appointed to meet.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Saturday, May* 23. 1795. *Seſſ.* 3.

*Sederunt.*

New Commiſſions produced.

A Letter from Mr George Cairncroſs Agent for the Church, was read; and ordered to be taken into conſideration on Monday.

A Committee named to reviſe the accounts of the Procurator and agent for the Church, and other public accounts, conſider the ſtate of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the ſame.

See Printed Acts, No. III. The draught of the Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly, being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertook to tranſmit the ſame to His Majeſty.

No. IV. The draught of a Dutiful and Loyal Addreſs to His Majeſty, on the nuptials of His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, likewiſe undertook to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

No. V. The draught of an Humble and Congratulatory Addreſs to his Royal Higneſs the Prince of Wales on the event of his marriage, was brought in and approved; and a Committee named to conſider of the proper mode of tranſmitting this addreſs to His Royal Highneſs.

No. VI. The Aſſembly enjoin all the Miniſters of this Church, to pray for Her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs of Wales.

Report of the Committee for overtures given in and read.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Lochcarron, "That the ſubſtitution to ſaid Commiſſion is defective, "in reſpect that it is totally different from the form." The objection ſuſtained, and the Commiſſioner's name ordained to be expunged from the roll.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Dalkeith, "That the extract of the election is not ſubſcribed." After long reaſoning a motion was made, and ſeconded, That though the extract of the Commiſſion be not ſigned, the atteſtation thereof is ſigned both by the moderator and clerk, and therefore that the Commiſſion ſhall be ſuſtained: And the queſtion was put, *Suſtain*, or *Reject* the Commiſſion: and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Suſtain*. The Aſſembly therefore repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Burgh of Peebles, "That there are not ten free days betwixt the reſolution to "elect,

"elect, and the day of election, the reſolution being on the "23d of March, and the election on the 2d April." The objection repelled, and the Commiſſion ſuſtained.

The Roll of Cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee for Bills called for, produced, and read.

Agreed to conſider on Monday next the Petition of Mr Smith of Cumbertrees; and alſo the reference from the Preſbytery of Edinburgh reſpecting Hairdreſſers: and to take up the cauſe of Mr Gillanders on Wedneſday next.

A Committee named to reviſe the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſion of the laſt General Aſſembly.

A Committee named to reviſe the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

The Committee for Overtures appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the ſeveral Members any inſtructions given to them by the reſpective Synods or Preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Aſſembly, and to receive and conſider any accounts that ſhall be given them of the ſtate of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superſtition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and ſuppreſſing thereof.

The Committee for Bills appointed to meet.

The Lord High Commiſſioner having undertaken to tranſmit the Addreſs to His Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, and the Aſſembly having thankfully accepted of his Grace's offer, the appointment of the Committee, formerly named at this diet to conſider of that matter being thereby rendered unneceſſary, was recalled.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May* 25. 1795. *Seſſ.* 4.

*Sederunt.*

New Commiſſions produced.

The Aſſembly, in purſuance of their reſolution of Saturday laſt, proceeded to the conſideration of Mr Cairncroſs's letter; and the ſame being again read, the Aſſembly unanimouſly accepted of Mr Cairncroſs's reſignation of the office of Agent for the Church. It was then moved, and agreed to, That the Aſſembly ſhall immediately proceed to elect a ſucceſſor to Mr George Cairncroſs in the ſaid office of Agent for the Church. And

Mr William Murray *junior*, writer in Edinburgh, being propoſed as a candidate well qualified for diſcharging the duties of that office, was by the Aſſembly unanimouſly appointed Agent for the Church in place of the ſaid Mr Cairncroſs.

The Report of the Committee on Chapels of Eaſe given in, and read, and ordered to lie on the table till Thurſday.

Report of the Committee for Bills called for, produced, and read.

Synod Books called for.

The Aſſembly proceeded to conſider the Appeal of Mr Thomas Smith, Miniſter of Cumbertrees; but as the whole papers had not been regularly tranſmitted, the conſideration of this affair was deferred till the whole papers be regularly tranſmitted through the Committee of Bills.

A Committee appointed to lay the reference from the Preſbytery of Edinburgh reſpecting the Barbers and Hair-dreſſers before the Crown Lawyers, and to requeſt their opinion, along with the Procurator for the Church, with regard to the moſt prudent method of redreſſing the evil complained of; and the Committee to report on Friday next.

Agreed to hear the cauſe of Mr Patrick Moir to-morrow.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Tueſday, May* 26. 1795. *Seſſ.* 5.

*Sederunt.*

New Commiſſions produced.

Report of the Committee for Bills called for, given in, and read.

The Petition and Appeal of Mr Thomas Smith, Miniſter of Cumbertrees, heard: The Aſſembly unanimouſly affirmed the ſentence of the Synod of Dumfries, diſmiſſing this cauſe.

An appeal at the inſtance of Mr Patrick Moir, Student in Divinity, from a ſentence of the Synod of Perth and Stirling, heard. After reaſoning, a motion was made and ſeconded, That in reſpect the final reſult of the inveſtigation ordered by the Synod of Perth and Stirling in October 1793, did not produce any legal proof of the facts and circumſtances connected with the Report of the Preſbytery of Auchterarder on the 16th of October 1793: The General Aſſembly do therefore remit to the Synod to judge at their meeting in October next, whether they will authoriſe the Preſbytery of Auchterarder to take Mr Moir upon trials, as if no ſuch charges had been exhibited againſt him: And another motion was made and ſeconded, That the General Aſſembly ſhall affirm the ſentence of the Synod of Perth and Stirling; and find, that, *in hoc ſtatu*, the appellant's behaviour has not been ſuch as to entitle him to be taken upon trials, reſerving to the appellant, upon any future occaſion, again to apply to be taken upon trials, when by his exemplary behaviour he ſhall ſatisfy the Preſbytery of Auchterarder of his being properly qualified for the ſacred character of a probationer of this Church: The Aſſembly agreed to the following ſtate of the vote, *Remit* or *Affirm*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Remit*. Therefore the Aſſembly remitted to the Synod, agreeable to the firſt motion.

Adjournment.

*Wedneſday,*

*Wedneſday, May* 21. 1795. *Seſſ.* 6.

*Sederunt.*

A new Commiſſion produced.

An appeal at the inſtance of Mr John Gillanders, miniſter of Fern, in the Preſbytery of Brechin, from a ſentence of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, heard. The Aſſembly unanimouſly reverſed the ſentence of the Synod, finding *male appellatum* on the part of Mr Gillanders; and remitted to the Synod, at their next ordinary meeting, to judge on the merits of the ſentence or deliverance of the Preſbytery of Brechin appealed from.

Committees appointed to meet.

Upon a motion, the Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Thurſday, May* 28. 1795. *Seſſ.* 7.

*Sederunt.*

A new Commiſſion produced.

A Committee named to reviſe the Synod Book of Galloway.

Report of the Committee for Overtures called for, given in, and read.

The Overture by Mr Skene Keith was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Report of the Sub-Committee for claſſing returns to Overtures, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Report of the Committee for Bills called for, given in, and read.

The public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Overture reſpecting Chapels of Eaſe, with alterations, recommitted and the Committee was appointed to report to next Aſſembly. Sir Henry Moncreiff, Convener.

A Committee appointed to collect the Reports of Preſbyteries reſpecting the examination of Parochial ſchools.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May* 29. 1795. *Seſſ.* 8.

*Sederunt.*

Report of the Committee on the reference reſpecting Hair-dreſſers ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

The Report of the Truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament, for a proviſion to Miniſters Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings ſince laſt General Aſſembly, and a ſtate of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow: And, upon a motion,

the

the thanks of the Houſe were given from the chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention and prudence in the management of the fund.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertſon, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him, and his cautioners, of the ſum of L. 514 : 12 : $5\frac{6}{12}$ Sterling diſburſed by him, and appointing, that he take credit in his next account for the ſum of L. 14 : 12 : $5\frac{6}{12}$ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Dr William Gloag, ſub-clerk of Aſſembly, and exonering and diſcharging him of the ſum of L. 42, 12 s. 7 d. Sterling, diſburſed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the ſum of L. 5 : 2 : 7 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickſon, Printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the ſum of L. 16, 17 s. 8 d. Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of ſtationary articles furniſhed to the clerks by Mr Elphinſton Balfour, and ordering payment of the ſum of L. 10 : 15 : 9 Sterling, being the amount thereof.

The Report of the Committee on the public funds of the Church, and new applications, given in and read, and unanimouſly approved of.

The Procurator and Agent for the Church appointed to take ſuch ſteps as ſhall appear to them neceſſary, at the expence of the Church, for bringing to a final deciſion a queſtion of very great importance to the clergy of this Church, depending before the Court of Teinds, with reſpect to the powers of the Court, to modify victual-ſtipend to a miniſter when the teinds were valued in money.

The Procurator empowered to take ſuch meaſures as he ſhall judge proper for ſettling the diſpute reſpecting the payment of L. 20 of expences awarded to the defenders in the proceſs of ſuppreſſion and annexation of the pariſhes of Contin and Fodderty, and which was conducted on the part of the defenders at the public expence.

The accounts of the agent for the Church for the future appointed to be annually atteſted by the Procurator, before they are laid before the Committee on public accounts; and the Procurator and Agent appointed to lay before the Committee on public accounts, yearly, a ſtate of the ſeveral proceſſes carried on at the public expence.

Upon the petition of Mr James Dickſon, printer for the Church, the Aſſembly renewed the grant in favour of Mr Dickſon, of the ſole right of printing and publiſhing the Tranſlations and Paraphraſes of Holy Scripture, for fourteen years from the termination of their former grant.

A Committee appointed to conſider the Overture by Mr Skene Keith, anent the method of carrying on proceſſes againſt clergymen, when private parties do not come forward to libel them; and to report to next Aſſembly. Mr Skene Keith appointed Convener of the Committee.

The Committee on Chapels of Eaſe appointed to meet on Tueſday next.

Adjournment.

*Saturday, May* 30. 1795. *Seſſ.* 9.

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the viſitors of the Commiſſion record called for; the Commiſſion's conduct approved of; thanks given to the moderator of the Commiſſion, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

The Report of the Committee for naming members of the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, and preparing inſtructions to them, given in, and approved of. The Aſſembly added thereto Dr Henry Grieve, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and alſo added Mr George Rae of Canongate, whoſe commiſſion had been rejected on account of informality. See Printed Acts, No. VII.

The Report of the viſitors of the Royal Bounty record given in, and read; the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commiſſion and inſtructions to them. No. VIII.

The Synod Book of Galloway ordered to be atteſted.

The Report of the Truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament for a proviſion to Miniſters Widows, *&c.* again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

The Report of the Committee appointed to claſs returns to Overtures was called for, given in, and read. The Aſſembly ordered the Overture reſpecting the licenſing of Probationers to be retranſmitted. No. IX.

And it appearing to the Aſſembly, that the object of the Overture and interim Act concerning the Annexation and Suppreſſion of Pariſhes is already attained by a law of the Church contained in Act V. Aſſembly 1740, the Aſſembly judge it unneceſſary to retranſmit the above mentioned interim Act and Overture, but recommend it to Preſbyteries to pay a ſtrict attention to the ſaid act V. Aſſembly 1740.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed with the former powers. The names of the Members of the Committee are: The Moderator, Dr Hardy, Dr Hunter, Mr William Simpſon, Mr Greenfield, Dr John Kemp, Sir Henry Moncreiff, Mr Moodie, *Miniſters;* the Procurator, Mr Thomas Smith, writer, Mr George Andrew, writer, Mr Solicitor-General, Mr James Gordon younger of Craig, and Mr William Gordon younger of Rothny, *Ruling Elders.*

Report of the Committee appointed to claſs returns from Preſbyteries anent the Act and Reſolution of laſt Aſſembly reſpecting the religious Education of Youth, was given in, and read. The

Aſſembly renew their injunction to the ſeveral Preſbyteries of this Church, eſpecially thoſe who have yet ſent no returns on this ſubject, to pay particular attention to the Act and Reſolution of laſt Aſſembly reſpecting the religious Education of Youth, and to report their diligence, on the back of their Commiſſions, to next Aſſembly.

The Report of the Committee appointed to conſult the Crown Lawyers, with the Procurator, on the reference of the Preſbytery of Edinburgh anent the Barbers and Hair-dreſſers was again called for, and given in, containing the written Opinion of the Crown Lawyers and Procurator given on this ſubject, at the requeſt of the Aſſembly; which Opinion was read, and of which the tenor follows: "We are of opinion that the facts "ſtated in the application to the Preſbytery of Edinburgh from "the Barbers and Hair dreſſers do not amount to profanation "of the Sabbath day, according to the deſcription of that of-"fence contained in the act 1661, c. 18. which is more preciſe "and particular than any of the other ſtatutes upon the ſub-"ject. If therefore the practice complained of ſhall appear to "require any correction or amendment, we apprehend this can "only be done by religious Admonition and Inſtruction; but "that there is no proper foundation for a proſecution before "any of the courts of law. (Signed) R. DUNDAS. ROBERT "BLAIR. WM. ROBERSTON." The General Aſſembly having taken into their conſideration this unanimous Opinion of the Crown Lawyers, with the Procurator, unanimouſly agreed to direct the Clerk of the Church, to tranſmit to the Preſbytery of Edinburgh a copy of ſaid Opinion, and enjoin the Preſbytery to employ every method of religious Admonition, Inſtruction, and Diſcipline, which appears to them expedient in order to preſerve upon the minds of the people, within their bounds, a due veneration for the Sabbath; and if there ſhall be laid before the Preſbytery of Edinburgh information of any ſuch profanation of the Sabbath within their bounds, as appears to them to fall under the deſcription of that offence contained in act 1661, c. 18. the General Aſſembly inſtruct the Preſbytery to conſult the Procurator of the Church with regard to the moſt prudent and effectual method of exerciſing the power of enforcing the execution of the ſtatutes with reſpect to the obſervance of the Sabbath, which is lodged with the Judicatories of this Church. And the Aſſembly inſtruct the Procurator to watch the introduction into Parliament of any bill reſpecting the due Obſervation of the Lord's Day, to correſpond with the Introducer of ſuch bill, and to tranſmit to him a copy of the Admonition and Information on that ſubject publiſhed by authority of laſt Aſſembly, and to requeſt his particular attention to the ſtate of Scotland reſpecting that ſubject.

On a motion the Committee of Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Monday,*

*Monday, June* 1. 1795. *Seſſ. ult.*

*Sederunt.*

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

A Committee appointed to conſider the petition for the Miniſters of Tongue, Durneſs, and Edrachilles, and to take ſuch methods as ſhall appear to them beſt calculated for rendering the funds from which the ſtipends of theſe Miniſters ariſe moſt productive, to report to next Aſſembly; and Mr James Finlayſon appointed Convener.

The account of Mr George Cairncroſs, late Agent for the Church, again called for, with the report of the Committee thereupon; which report was read, and unanimouſly approved of.

Liſt of Probationers produced; their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The Committee on the Orkney grievances renewed, and the Committee authoriſed to receive any farther information, which may be communicated from the Synod or Preſbyteries of Orkney on the ſubject, and to report to next Aſſembly.

A Committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the Acts of the Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the Aſſembly, and to his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Lord High Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

Act appointing next diet of Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly concluded with prayer, ſinging of Pſalms, and pronouncing the Bleſſing.

See Printed Acts, No. XI.